



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,058	07/25/2006	Ulrike Wachendorff-Neumann	CS8786/BCS033016	2145
34469	7590	03/25/2011		
BAYER CROPSCIENCE LP Patent Department 2 T.W. ALEXANDER DRIVE RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709			EXAMINER CHOI, FRANK I	
			ART UNIT 1616	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 03/25/2011	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

blair.wilson@bayercropscience.com
pamula.ramsey@bayercropscience.com
destiny.davenport@bayercropscience.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/576,058	WACHENDORFF-NEUMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	FRANK CHOI	1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19,21 and 30-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19,21 and 30-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/8/2010</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/28/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 19, 21, 30-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 03/010149.

The claimed invention is directed to synergistic combinations of penflufen with other antimicrobial agents, treatment of plants and seeds, including transgenic plants and seeds to control phytopathogens.

WO 03/010149 discloses penflufen can be used for controlling fungi and bacteria on crops, including seeds, including transgenic plants and seeds, can be combined with surfactants and extenders, and with other known fungicides, bactericides, acaricides, nematocides or insecticides, including azoxystrobin and azaconazole in which in many cases synergistic activity can be obtained (Page 29, lines 25-30, pages 30-46)

WO 03/010149 discloses penflufen in the treatment of plants and seeds, including transgenic plants and seeds to control fungal and bacterial infections, combinations with surfactants and extenders and combinations with other antimicrobials. The difference between WO 03/010149 and the claimed invention is that the prior art does not expressly disclose the synergistic combination of penflufen with the specifically claimed additional active agents. However, the prior art amply suggests the same as WO 03/010149 discloses combinations with one of more of the claimed other active agents, including azoxystrobin and azaconazole and that in many cases said combinations can be synergistic. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect that the combinations would be effective in treating phytopathic infections of plants and seeds. The Applicant has not provided evidence from which it can be concluded that every claimed combination would be expected to exhibit synergy. As such, although the prior art does not expressly indicate which combinations would be synergistic, since the combinations themselves are suggested by the prior art, the prior reads on the claimed invention.

The Examiner has duly considered the Applicant's arguments but deems them unpersuasive.

The Applicant submits the workings examples on pages 87 - 108 as evidence of unexpected synergistic activity. However, the examples employed specific active agents, at specified amounts and specified ratios on specific fungal infections, either as a treatment or pre-treatment, on specific plants. The examples clearly show differences in effectiveness which may be due to for any of a number of reasons, including but not limited to the active agents used, the amount and ratio used, the concentration, virulence and susceptibility of the fungus, the natural fungal resistance properties of the given plant and/or the method of application, treatment or pre-

Art Unit: 1616

treatment. The claims include a large number of active agents with relatively few active agents tested. For example, no synergy data is provided from azaconazole and only a single test was performed with azoxystrobin at a 1:1 ratio using 4 g/ha for each active agent used as pre-treatment on cucumber against *Sphaerotheca fuliginea*. The claims, however, are broad in that they include any amount and ratio of the active agents and treatment of any seed or plant or habitat against any fungi (either an established infection or as a pre-treatment). See *In re Peterson*, 315 F.3d 1325, 1329-31, 65 USPQ2d 1379, 1382-85 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (data showing improved alloy strength with the addition of 2% rhenium did not evidence unexpected results for the entire claimed range of about 1-3% rhenium); *In re Kollman*, 595 F.2d 48, 201 USPQ 193 (CCPA 1979) (Claims directed to mixtures of an herbicide known as “FENAC” with a diphenyl ether herbicide in certain relative proportions were rejected as *prima facie* obvious. Applicant presented evidence alleging unexpected results testing three species of diphenyl ether herbicides over limited relative proportion ranges. The court held that the limited number of species exemplified did not provide an adequate basis for concluding that similar results would be obtained for the other diphenyl ether herbicides within the scope of the generic claims. Claims 6-8 recited a FENAC:diphenyl ether ratio of 1:1 to 4:1 for the three specific ethers tested. For a third ether, data was only provided over the range of 1:1 to 2:1 where the effectiveness decreased to the “expected level” as it approached the untested region. This evidence was not sufficient to overcome the obviousness rejection.); *In re Greenfield*, 571 F.2d 1185, 1189, 197 USPQ 227, 230 (CCPA 1978) (evidence of superior properties in one species insufficient to establish the nonobviousness of a subgenus containing hundreds of compounds); *In re Clemens*, 622 F.2d 1029, 1036, 206 USPQ 289, 296 (CCPA 1980) (one skilled in the art needs to be able to

Art Unit: 1616

ascertain a trend which would allow him to reasonably extend the probative value thereof the evidence provided). As such, the evidence provided is not commensurate in scope with the claims.

Therefore, the claimed invention, as a whole, would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, because every element of the invention has been collectively taught by the combined teachings of the cited reference.

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 19, 21, 30-35 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12, 14-16 of U.S. Patent No. 7,538,073 in view of

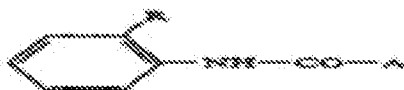
Art Unit: 1616

Eicken et al. (US Pat. 5, 438,070), the Applicant's admission, Eicken et al. (US Pat. 5,480,897) and Ding et al. (US Pat. Pub. 2002/0134012).

Claims 1-12, 14-16 of U.S. Patent No. 7,538,073 disclose pyrazolycarboxanilides, including N-[2-(1,3-dimethylbutyl) phenyl]-5-fluoro-1,3-dimethyl-1H-pyrazole-4-carboxamide, and its use in controlling phytopathogenic fungi, combination with extenders and/or surfactants and application to the habitat of the fungi.

Eicken et al. ('070) discloses anti-fungal carboxanilides of formula (1) (Column 1).

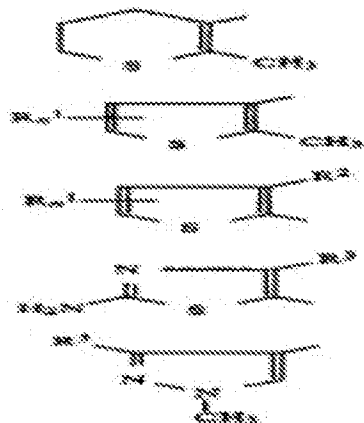
The present invention relates to carboxanilides of the formula I



where the substituents have the following meanings:

R is C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkoxy, C₁-C₁₂-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkenyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkynyloxy, where these groups can be partially or completely halogenated; C₁-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₇-cycloalkenyl, C₁-C₇-cycloalkyloxy or C₁-C₇-cycloalkenyloxy, where these rings can carry one to three C₁-C₄-alkyls; phenyl, which can carry one to five halogens and/or one to three of the following radicals: C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkylthio or C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio;

A is a cyclic radical from the group consisting of the formulae A1 to A5:



where the substituents have the following meanings:

R¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;
R² is halogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;
R³ is C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-haloalkyl;
n is 1 or 2, where the radicals R¹ can be different if the value of n is 2.

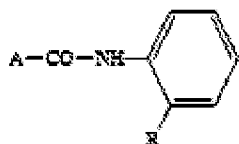
It is disclosed that R can be straight chain or branched and can include 1,3-dimethylbutyl, 3,3 dimethylbutyl, and 1,2,2-trimethylpropyl (Column 4, lines 54-68). It is disclosed that compounds of formula (I) are effective for protecting plants and that formulations can be prepared with extenders and emulsifiers (Column 18, lines 9-64). It is disclosed that the active ingredients may also be mixed with other microbicides, for example, 2,4,5,6-tetrachloroisophthalodinitrile, and that in many instances a synergistic effect is achieved (Column 20, lines 38-68, Column 21, lines 1-59).

The Applicant admits that the present invention relates to the combination of known carboxamides and known fungicidally active compounds, including strobilurins, triazoles, sulphenamides, valinamides, carboxamides, dithiocarbamates, acylalanines, anilinopyrimidines, benzimidazoles, carbamates, dicarboximides, guanidines, imidazoles, morpholines, pyrroles, phosphonates, phenylethanamides, fungicides (including chlorothalonil), (thio)urea derivatives, triazolopyrimidines, idodochromones and biphenylcarboxamides (Specification, page 1, page 13, lines 28-31, pages 14-37, page 38, lines 1-10).

Eicksen et al. ('897) discloses an anilide derivative of having the general formula which is effective as a fungicide (Column 1, Column 33, lines 16, Columns 31, 32, Column 33, lines 1-15):

Art Unit: 1616

The present invention relates to the use of anilide derivatives of the general formula



10

where A has the following meanings:

15

pyridin-3-yl substituted in the 2-position by halogen, methyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, methylthio, methylsulfinyl or methylsulfonyl,

phenyl substituted in 2-position by methyl, trifluoromethyl, chlorine, bromine or iodine,

20

2-methyl-5,6-dihydropyran-3-yl, 2-methyl-5,6-dihydro-1,4-oxathiin-3-yl, 2-methyl-5,6-dihydro-1,4-oxathiin-3-yl-4-oxide, 2-methyl-5,6-dihydro-1,4-oxathiin-3-yl-4,4-dioxide; 2-methyl-furan-3-yl substituted in the 4- and 5-positions by hydrogen or methyl; thiazol-5-yl substituted in the 2- and 4-positions by hydrogen, methyl, chlorine or trifluoromethyl; thiazol-4-yl substituted in the 2- and 5-positions by hydrogen, methyl, chlorine or trifluoromethyl; 1-methylpyrazol-4-yl substituted in the 3- and 5-positions by methyl, chlorine or trifluoromethyl; or oxazol-5-yl substituted the 2- and 4-positions by hydrogen, methyl or chlorine, and

25

30

R has the following meanings: unsubstituted or halogen-substituted C_2-C_{12} -alkyl, unsubstituted or halogen-substituted C_3-C_{12} -alkenyl, C_3-C_8 -alkynyl, unsubsti-

35

It is disclosed that R can be straight chain or branched and can include 1,3-dimethylbutyl, 3,3 dimethylbutyl, and 1,2,2-trimethylpropyl (Column 1, lines 65-68). It is disclosed that compounds of the general formula are effective for protecting plants or seeds of plants and that formulations can be prepared with extenders and emulsifies (Column 33, lines 16-34). It is disclosed that the active ingredients may also be mixed with other fungicides (Column 35, lines 55-68, Column 36, Column 37, lines 1-45).

Ding et al. disclose that fungicidal treatment of seeds reduces the number of separate filed passes that a farmer must make to prepare for, plant and raise a crop (Paragraph 0007). It is disclosed that the treated seeds can be transgenic seeds (Paragraph 0033).

The difference between the claims of U.S. Patent No. 7,538,073 and the claimed invention is that claims of said US Patent do not expressly disclose combining synergistically with other fungicides and treatment of plants, seeds, including transgenic plants and seeds. However, the prior art amply suggests the same as Eicken et al. (US Pat. 5, 438,070) discloses the synergistic combination of similarly structured carboxanilides with other fungicides in the treatment of plants, the Applicant acknowledges that the claimed other fungicides are known in the art, Eicken et al. (US Pat. 5,480,897) discloses the combination of similarly structured carboxanilides with other fungicides in the treatment of plants and seeds and Ding et al. (US Pat. Pub. 2002/0134012) discloses that transgenic seeds can be treated and that this reduces the total amount of pesticides used during the planting and growing of the crop. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect that the compounds disclosed in the claims of '073 patent could be effectively and synergistically combined with the presently claimed other fungicides and that the same would be effective in treating plants and seeds, including transgenic plants and seeds.

The Examiner has duly considered the Applicant's arguments but deems them unpersuasive for the same reasons as above.

Therefore, the claimed invention, as a whole, would have been an obvious modification of the claims of the cited patent to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, because every element of the invention has been collectively taught by the combined teachings of the claims of the cited patent and the references.

Claims 19, 21, 30-35 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4, 5-15 of copending Application No. 11/997,079. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not

Art Unit: 1616

patentably distinct from each other because the both claim combinations of penflufen with azoles and/or strobilurins, treatment of seeds, control of phytopathogenic fungic, protection of transgenic plants and the use of extenders and/or surfactants.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

The Applicant's offer to submit a suitable terminal disclaimer if the claims are otherwise found allowable. However, since a terminal disclaimer has not been filed the provisional double patenting rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

A facsimile center has been established in Technology Center 1600. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:45 AM to 4:45 PM. The telecopier number for accessing the facsimile machine is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Choi whose telephone number is (571)272-0610. The Examiner maintains a flexible schedule, however, the Examiner may generally be reached Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6:00 am – 4:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Johann R. Richter, can be reached at (571)272-0646. Additionally, Technology Center 1600's Receptionist and Customer Service can be reached at (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

Art Unit: 1616

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frank Choi
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600
March 22, 2011

/John Pak/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616